



AIMS UPDATE for District Test Coordinators

Superintendent Tom Horne

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#11

It is recommended that recipients of the AIMS Update communicate, as appropriate, the information contained within this newsletter to superintendents, charter representatives, special education directors, curriculum directors, principals, assistant principals, school test coordinators, teachers, counselors, students, and parents.

DUE DATES FOR SPRING 2006 TEST REPORTS

- May 17, 2006** AIMS HS Math Rapid Response Reports
June 1, 2006 AIMS HS Math complete set of reports
TerraNova reports for Grades 2 and 9
June 8, 2006 AIMS DPA complete set of reports

TESTING CALENDAR FOR FALL 2006

- October 31, 2006** AIMS HS – WRITING FIELD TEST
Cohort 2009 only
October 31, 2006 AIMS HS – WRITING
November 1, 2006 AIMS HS – READING
November 2, 2006 AIMS HS – MATHEMATICS

TESTING CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2007

AIMS HS

- February 27, 2007** AIMS HS – WRITING
February 28, 2007 AIMS HS – READING
March 6, 2007 AIMS HS – WRITING make-up
March 7, 2007 AIMS HS – READING make-up
April 11, 2007 AIMS HS – MATHEMATICS
April 12, 2007 AIMS HS – SCIENCE FIELD TEST
April 17, 2007 AIMS HS – MATHEMATICS make-up

AIMS DPA

- February 26 –
March 2, 2007** AIMS DPA – WRITING FIELD TEST
Grades 3 through 8
Schedule one day of testing.
April 9 – 20, 2007 AIMS DPA
Schedule 4 days of testing.
The first day of testing must not be
scheduled later than April 11.
The fourth day of testing must not be
scheduled later than April 18.
April 13 -20, 2007 AIMS – SCIENCE FIELD TEST
Grades 4 and 8 only
Schedule one day of testing after the 4
days of AIMS DPA testing.

TerraNova

- April 9 -20, 2007** Schedule 2 days for Grade 2.
Schedule 1 or 2 days for Grade 9.

RECAP OF SPRING 2006 TESTING ISSUES

Problems with the precoded student labels

This was the first year that precoded student labels were printed based solely on data within SAIS. This process did not require districts or charter operators to upload to ADE a special file with data for the precoded labels. While this was simpler for schools, it proved to be more challenging for ADE than originally anticipated.

ADE encountered three separate issues that resulted in errors in the precoded labels. The first issue was the deletion of students with non-alpha characters in the name field, such as hyphens, from the label file. The second issue involved difficulty in retrieving the most current ELL data for students. The third issue involved an incorrect calculation of cohort year for a small number of high school students with a particular set of circumstances occurring during the summer between their eighth grade and ninth grade years.

ADE regrets these errors and sincerely apologizes for any trouble caused by them. The programming used to create the precoded student label file is being revised for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 testing to eliminate these errors.

The ADE Research and Evaluation Section does **not** use the data in the precoded student labels for accountability purposes.

Delay in reports for some districts and charters

CTB/McGraw-Hill has reported that some entities have returned their scorable materials with multiple programs boxed together. As was stated in the pre-test workshops, the scorables for each testing program (AIMS HS, AIMS DPA, and TerraNova) must be boxed separately. All scorable boxes with materials from more than one testing program have been set aside and will be processed during late scoring. Districts and charters that boxed their scorables inappropriately will be notified by either ADE or CTB/McGraw-Hill during the next couple of weeks. These entities will be receiving their test reports late.

Error on AIMS HS Mathematics

An error was found in question 68 on the AIMS HS Mathematics test. The vertical axes for the diagrams were labeled incorrectly. This item has been excluded from the scoring of the test. The scaling of the test will be based on 84 test items this year rather than 85.

Test items go through many reviews prior to being used operationally on an AIMS test. ADE and CTB/McGraw-Hill are working to determine how this item made it through these reviews without being corrected. ADE apologizes for this error.

SPRING 2006 TEST REPORTS

There is no embargo on the release of individual student test results. The AIMS HS and AIMS DPA student reports and the AIMS DPA student longitudinal reports may be released to students and parents immediately upon their receipt.

A limited number of the *AIMS HS Guide to Test Interpretation* and the *AIMS DPA Guide to Test Interpretation* is included with your test report shipment. Additional copies may be downloaded and printed from the test coordinator web page:
<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/aims/Administering/>.

INFORMATION ABOUT TESTING FOR 2006-2007

The August edition of the AIMS Update will include key event dates for August through December 2006. There will be a number of August due dates related to AIMS HS Fall 2006 testing: CTB on-line ordering of test materials, data extraction from SAIS for precoded student labels, and registration for pre-test workshops. Activities related to AIMS DPA and *TerraNova* will begin in November.

Test Coordinator Information Sheet

Again this year, every school district and charter operator is required to submit a Test Coordinator Information Sheet. The person named on this information sheet will serve as the test coordinator for all schools within the district or for all schools operated under the same charter. This person will be referred to as the "district test coordinator" even if serving as coordinator for a charter operator.

The due date for the 2006-2007 Test Coordinator Information Sheet is August 15, 2006. Districts and charters with students who may be participating in Summer AIMS are encouraged to submit their Test Coordinator Information Sheet prior to June 1, 2006. The district test coordinator will be responsible for overseeing Summer AIMS registration and will be receiving the Summer AIMS results directly from ADE.

Writing Field Test

Every few years, ADE needs to field test new writing prompts. New writing prompts for all Grades 3 through 8 and high school will be field tested during 2006-2007.

The AIMS HS Writing field test will occur on Tuesday, October 31, 2006. All students in cohort 2009, generally 10th graders, enrolled in a district school or charter school will be expected to participate in this field test. Students enrolled in private schools, BIA schools, secure care facilities, private/voucher placement schools, and home school students will not participate in the field test.

The writing field test for Grades 3 through 8 will occur during the week of February 26 – March 2. Exactly which schools will participate in this field test is still to be determined. The writing field test for Grades 3 through 8 may include nearly all state schools like the high school field test, or it may include only a sample of schools. ADE's National Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee will provide guidance to ADE and CTB/McGraw-Hill regarding the design of the field test this

summer. Participation in the writing field test is not optional. If selected, schools must participate. More information about the writing field test for Grades 3 through 8 will be included in the August AIMS Update.

AIMS Science

The Science Blueprint has been posted on the ADE website: <http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/aims/blueprints/>. These blueprints show the Strands, Concepts, and number of POs that will be assessed. Strands 1 - 3, concerning process, will be addressed at all three grade levels combined with the assessment of content Strands 4 - 6 at Grade 4, Strands 4 and 5 at Grade 8, and Strand 4 at HS.

The AIMS Science field test will be administered to Grades 4 and 8 as the fifth day of AIMS testing within the AIMS DPA test window of April 9 – 20, 2007. The AIMS Science field test will be administered in high school on Thursday, April 12. Like the writing field test, the design of the science field test will be discussed at this summer's meeting of ADE's National Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee. Additional information about which schools will be participating in the science field test and which students in high school will be participating will be included in the August AIMS Update. Participation in the science field test is not optional. If selected, schools must participate.

AIMS DPA Scheduling

For Spring 2007, there will be greater restrictions on which days within the test window are to be used for scheduled AIMS DPA test dates and which dates may be used only for make-up dates. Day 1 of AIMS DPA testing may not occur any later than Wednesday, April 11. The last possible day for Day 4 of testing is Wednesday, April 18. The last possible day for the Grades 4 and 8 AIMS Science field test, Day 5 of testing, is Thursday, April 19. Friday, April 20 is a make-up only day.

AIMS HS Scheduling

AIMS HS testing occurs on the following days:

Tuesday, October 31, 2006,
Wednesday, November 1, 2006,
Thursday, November 2, 2006,
Tuesday, February 27, 2007,
Wednesday, February 28, 2007,
Tuesday, March 6, 2007,
Wednesday, March 7, 2007,
Wednesday, April 11, 2007,
Thursday, April 12, 2007, and
Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

Schools that will not be in session on one or more of these days are expected to request permission to test on alternate test dates **prior** to the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. Such requests must be submitted to the Director of State Test Administration on official district/school letterhead by the superintendent or charter representative and must include a copy of the official 2006-2007 school calendar.

Testing Accommodations

Testing accommodations for special education students, students with 504 plans, and English Language Learners will be revised for 2006-2007. The new accommodations will be posted in August on the test coordinator web page:
<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/aims/Administering/>.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION ISSUES

All students graduating from high school must pass the AIMS HS test in all three content areas, **or** qualify for graduation via AIMS Augmentation or AIMS Reciprocity, **or** be exempt for the AIMS requirement as described in ARS 15-701.01.

AIMS Augmentation

The State Board of Education rules for AIMS Augmentation and a sample AIMS Augmentation worksheet can be found on this ADE webpage:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/stateboard/AIMSAugmentation.asp> .

Students who have been deemed not qualified for AIMS Augmentation due to not testing in both Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 and/or not participating in a remediation program must be given an opportunity to appeal this determination.

AIMS Reciprocity

Students who passed a qualifying exam in another state are not required to pass AIMS HS in order to graduate. More information about AIMS Reciprocity and the lists of qualifying exams can be found on this ADE webpage:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/aims/gradrequire/> .

Special Education and 504

Students with an IEP or 504 plan are not required to pass AIMS in order to graduate unless the passage of AIMS is specifically required in the IEP or 504 plan.

ELL Students

English Language Learners are required to meet the AIMS requirement in order to graduate from high school. ELL students who have not passed AIMS may qualify for AIMS Augmentation or AIMS Reciprocity.

AIMS common logon look-up

Students' previous AIMS HS results are available on the common logon within the downloads section of the Student Detail Data Interchange. AIMS HS test results downloaded from the common logon are considered official test results as are the original paper report results produced by the test company. Either one of these reports is sufficient evidence of student performance on AIMS for graduation or augmentation purposes.

AIMS scores on high school transcripts

The State Board of Education voted in 1999 to require the posting of AIMS HS test results on high school transcripts. In February 2006, the Board updated those requirements. High school transcripts must include scale score, performance level, and date of test for at least the highest test score in each of the three content areas. Schools may choose to post all AIMS HS test scores instead of just the highest.

Summer AIMS

The Arizona Department of Education will be administering AIMS HS on July 11, 12, and 13 in various locations

throughout the state for students who did not graduate in May due solely to their performance on AIMS HS. Students who have not completed all coursework required for graduation, students who are exempt from passing AIMS HS, students who passed qualifying tests from other states, and students who "met" the standard via AIMS Augmentation are not permitted to test in the summer. Additional information about Summer AIMS will be sent to district test coordinators soon.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards>

Roberta Alley, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment

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To add your name to the Test Coordinator's Email list:

Email: angeles.rothermel@azed.gov

AIMS Test Administration Questions:

Irene Hunting, Director of State Test Administration

Telephone: (602) 542-5450

Email: irene.hunting@azed.gov

CTB/McGraw-Hill:

Arizona Help Desk

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Regarding the purchase of CTB products contact:

Amber Goularte, Sales Representative

Telephone: (800) 538-9547 x7265

Email: Amber_Goularte@ctb.com

Test Coordinator Information Sheet

School Year 2006-2007

State Board of Education Rule R7-2-310 allows the superintendent or head of district to designate a test coordinator to act on his/her behalf. If no test coordinator is designated, then the superintendent or head of district will serve as the test coordinator.

To aid in effective communication between the Arizona Department of Education and test coordinators for districts and charter operators, please complete the following information. Fax or mail to the Assessment Section of ADE by **Tuesday, August 15, 2006**

Name of District or Charter:

_____ District entity # _____

Name of Superintendent or Charter Representative:

Name of District/Charter Operator Test Coordinator:

Mailing address:

Shipping address for test materials (no P.O. Boxes):

Phone number(s) for Test Coordinator:

E-mail address(es) for Test Coordinator:

Submit to: Arizona Department of Education
Assessment Section
1535 W. Jefferson St, Bin 6
Phoenix, AZ 85007

FAX: 602.542.5467

Due Date: **August 15, 2006**